



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

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2009 Wyoming NAEP Reading scores to be released

Cheyenne – Wyoming’s performance in reading on the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as “The Nation’s Report Card” or NAEP, will be released on March 24 at 8 a.m. MST. The results and various visual graphics representing the results will be available on the Wyoming Department of Education website. The 2009 NAEP reading test was administered to students during the end of January and beginning of February of 2009.

Wyoming State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Jim McBride, will be available for interviews. Please contact the Wyoming Department of Education at (307) 777-7675 to schedule an interview.

NAEP plays an integral role in the nation’s No Child Left Behind legislation. Statewide testing of reading is scheduled and administered to Wyoming students every two years. A key purpose of NAEP under No Child Left Behind is to serve as an external reference point in viewing a state’s academic testing programs, e.g., the Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students or PAWS.

NAEP has traditionally provided a point of comparison when considering PAWS results in reading and mathematics, as well as PAWS testing in other academic areas such as writing and science.

NAEP is distinctive in its design and purpose compared to PAWS testing. The PAWS assesses each student in the same skill areas using the same test questions. This allows Wyoming teachers to track student growth and make instructional “next steps” decisions for each individual student.

By contrast, NAEP employs a matrix sampling procedure, e.g., each student sees only a portion of the overall NAEP reading test; some students are tested in NAEP reading, while others assessed in NAEP mathematics or science.

Overall, NAEP is relatively low stakes because it provides reporting at the state-level only, whereas PAWS—by contrast—is used for school building and district-level accountability outcomes and decisions. Because NAEP testing is required for all states under the No Child Left Behind legislation, it offers a very rigorous and valid metric for making comparisons between Wyoming and other states regarding state educational performance.

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